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Catholic Refugees from Europe

10/12
No. 38/25491

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Department of the Interior.

FILE OF PAPERS.

SUBJECT:

3095.

Catholic Refugees from Europe

Refugees "C"

MIN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

No. 38/25491.

MEMORANDUM:

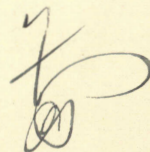
NON-ARYAN CATHOLIC REFUGEES : QUESTION OF
REDUCTION OF LANDING MONEY FOR FARM WORKERS.

With reference to the attached letter of 11th May, 1939, I discussed the matter with Mr. Williamson, suggesting that he should obtain particulars as to the ages of the prospective migrants and the amount of landing capital that would be available for them.

Mr. Williamson said in an interview to-day to take no further action for the present in connection with his letter as he proposes to go into the matter further and will probably write to the Department in the near future asking for permission to introduce a limited number of farm workers under 20 years of age with, say, £5 landing money on the understanding that the Committee would undertake the responsibility of looking after them on arrival and placing them in employment.



(A.R. Peters)
23/ 6/39.



See also file
39/2/55

Speak to
W. Williamson

I in reduction for
£200 -
would £50 be accepted

As it doesn't do
reduce ^{still} ~~say~~ further

I 2 2 2 2 2

1 2 2 2 2 2 2

1 2 2 2 2 2 2

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
No. 38/3295
25491

Continental Catholic Migrants Welfare Committee

TELEPHONE M 6788
ADDRESS LETTERS
BOX 1187 HH, G.P.O., SYDNEY
AUSTRALIA



St. Mary's Cathedral
Sydney
Australia
11th May, 1939.

The Secretary,
Department of the Interior,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

The Irish Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has applied to this Committee to nominate for Australia twenty-four (24) non-Aryan Catholic Refugees.

113825491

These persons have been trained in Ireland for farm work.

The Irish Society is short of funds and cannot provide the required landing money.

Could the Department admit these farm hands to Australia with a reduced amount of landing money, with a guarantee by this Committee that they will be employed on farms.

In support of this request, I might state that the Under-Secretary of the Department of Labour and Industry, Mr. Bellemore, told the writer that 200 Catholic farm hands could find employment on the North Coast of New South Wales.

I would appreciate an early decision on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

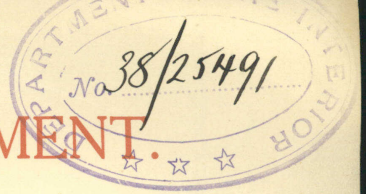
B. Williamson
SECRETARY.

Yours f
b.
SEC
6 - 2 re b c w r

Balkan Refugees from Europe

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

JW/FO'C.



R.349/3/5.

The Secretary,
Department of the Interior.

Referred, by direction, in connection with previous correspondence.

Copies have also been sent to the Minister for the Interior and to the Department of External Affairs.

V. Strahan
Secretary
8/3/39 *AS*

8 - MAR 1939

COPY.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
COUNCIL OF IRELAND

30 South Anne Street,
DUBLIN. C.2.

19th January, 1939.

Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
Government Buildings,
CANBERRA. Australia.

Dear Sir,

AUSTRIAN - GERMAN.REFUGEES.

I am very grateful for your kind and informative letter of December 12th relative to the above Refugees. Lest there should be any misunderstanding I wish to state that the Government of Eire, as such, has no scheme for the settlement of these Refugees. They are assisting a representative committee in this country by facilitating the admission to Eire of a limited number of Christian Austrian and German Refugees for training in agriculture. They are not, however, taking any responsibility though we hope that should a scheme be adopted with the help of the British Government, we may be able to join forces so that our group may be granted the facilities in the Dominions which may be afforded to those in Great Britain.

I have also heard from the Continental Catholic Emigrants Welfare Committee with whom we shall take up the further discussion of this matter.

May I add my personal thanks for your very kindly reference to my late brother, Patrick McMahon Glynn.

I am,

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) J. A. GLYNN

President.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

CANBERRA.

8th March, 1939.

*With the Compliments
of the
Prime Minister.*

**The Secretary,
Referred by direction]**

The Hon. J. McEwen, M.P., *Private Secretary.*
Minister for the Interior. *9.3.39.*

Copy has also been sent to your
Department.

[Handwritten signature]

COPY.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
COUNCIL OF IRELAND

30 South Anne Street,
DUBLIN. C.2.

19th January, 1939.

Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, M.P.,
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I am,

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) J. A. GLYNN

President.

Catholic Refugees from Europe



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

CANBERRA.

12th December, 1938.

*With the Compliments
of the
Prime Minister.*

*File
ML 4-1-39*

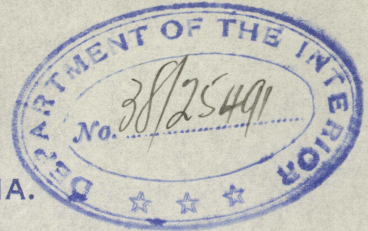
*Attach to
file*

The Hon. J. McEwen, M.P.,
Minister for the Interior.

Copies have been sent to your
Department.

19 DEC 1938

Record



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER,

Canberra, E.C.T., 12th December, 1938
R.349/3/5.

6 JAN Recd

Dear Sir,

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 11th November, 1938, regarding the proposals which the Dail Government has in mind for assisting European refugees and particularly with regard to the steps which the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is taking to maintain and train a number of these refugees.

It is observed that the Dail Government proposes to train refugees in agriculture for twelve months and at the expiration of that period arrange for their absorption in the British Dominions or in South America under the immigration schemes existing in the various countries, and that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul intends to follow this plan in respect to the refugees with whom it is particularly concerned.

You will appreciate that the number of aliens who can be admitted to Australia is governed by the capacity of the Commonwealth to absorb such migrants without detrimentally affecting the position of Australian workers. In this connection I would mention that there are opportunities for employment in Australia for farm workers, domestic workers and certain types of skilled artisans such as carpenters and bricklayers.

I am setting out for your information the following general rules at present operating regarding the admittance of white aliens to Australia:-

- (a) Every alien is required to obtain a landing permit before being admitted to Australia for permanent residence.
- (b) The issue of landing permits is confined, as a rule -
 - (i) to close dependent relatives of persons already settled in Australia, subject to satisfactory maintenance guarantees;
 - (ii) persons outside the category of dependent relatives who are nominated by relatives or friends in Australia, subject to satisfactory maintenance guarantees and possession by the nominees of £50 landing money;
 - (iii) persons without guarantors in Australia who possess £200 landing money.

J.A. Glynn, Esq.,
President,
Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
Council of Ireland,
30 South Anne Street,
DUBLIN. IRELAND.

/The

The policy of the Government in regard to European refugees, who really come within the category of white aliens, was enunciated by my colleague, the Minister for the Interior, in the House of Representatives on 1st December, last. I am attaching, for your information, copy of the speech made by my colleague on that occasion.

With the object of receiving, placing in employment, and generally attending to the after-care of Catholic refugees, an Organisation has been set up in Sydney called the Continental Catholic Migrants Welfare Committee, the address of which is 152 Elizabeth Street, Sydney. It is understood that the resources of the Catholic Church of New South Wales are behind this movement and that the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Catholic Women's Association particularly are assisting.

I am informed that although the Archbishops in the other States of the Commonwealth are interested in this matter no organisation, apart from that referred to above, has yet been established. As you will doubtless desire to communicate with the Continental Catholic Migrants Welfare Committee in Sydney I am arranging for a copy of this letter to be forwarded to the Secretary of that Organisation, so that he may be in a position to anticipate any enquiries you may address to him.

I was most interested to learn that you are a brother of the late Hon. Patrick McMahon Glynn, whose name will always be remembered in Australia by reason of the prominent part he took in Commonwealth affairs in the early days of Federation.

Yours faithfully,

(SGD.) J. A. LYONS

Prime Minister.

COPY

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL.

Council of Ireland,

30 South Anne Street,

DUBLIN. C.2. 11th November, 1938

Rt.Hon. J.A. Lyons, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
Government Buildings,
Canberra, AUSTRALIA.

Austrian Refugees.

Dear Sir,

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been approached by a joint Committee in England dealing with the question of Austrian Refugees to ascertain if our Society would be prepared to take over to Ireland a group of Austrian Catholics who have a certain amount of Jewish blood in them and who are not being provided for by any of the existing Charitable Organisations in Austria. We are informed that the Catholic Organisations are not allowed to help them by the Government under threat of heavy taxation and the collection of all arrears in connection with same. We are prepared to comply with this request and, in addition to that, a large joint Committee is being formed in this country to deal with other Refugees, practically all of whom will be Catholics though not necessarily of Jewish blood.

The scheme proposed is that those Refugees should have an intensive training in agriculture for 12 months and that at the end of that period should be sent to the British Dominions or South America under whatever immigration schemes exist in these countries. Our Government has taken a very favourable view of the whole matter and a Committee is being formed under the Chairmanship of the Speaker of the Dail. In the meantime the group of Refugees belonging to this Society is expected in the course of a week or ten days and we have undertaken to maintain them and have them trained as already mentioned. We had intended to write to the Councils of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Australia and South Africa seeking their help in placing these people but it has been suggested that I write to you in the first instance asking your co-operation in this very laudable work. It will be a great help to us here if you would let me know what can be done by your Government in placing these people at a later stage when we can certify that they have been trained in agriculture.

I am writing, of course, as President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, but it may interest you to know that I am the brother of the late Patrick McMahon Glynn K.C., who was one of the founders of the Australian Commonwealth and who was one of the Federal Ministers prior to 1918.

I am,
Very truly yours,
(SGD) J.A. GLYNN
President.

Catholic Refugees
from Europe

Mr Wingfield //

I have a
file re Fundamental
Catholic Migration
Welfare Committee
or the Catholic
Refugees -

For help
this and attach
to that file

W.D.

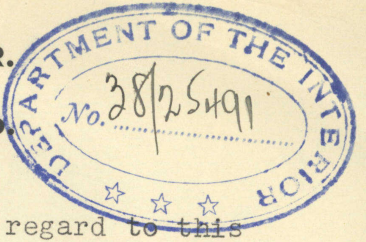
9/1/38

12 DEC 1938

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

CEH

No.



MEMORANDUM:

I telephoned Mr. C.J. Campbell in regard to this matter today.

2. I advised him that the Continental Catholic Migrants Welfare Committee, 152 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, had been established with the express object of attending to the reception, settlement and after care of Catholic refugees. I suggested that the President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul might be referred to the organisation mentioned.

3. Mr. Campbell promised that this would be done and that copy of the letter would be forwarded to this Department in due course. I also suggested that copy of the letter be sent to the Secretary of the organisation in Sydney. Mr. Campbell promised that this would be done also.

M. J. Farrell

9/12/1938.

12 DEC 1938

W barrodes.

The P. M. has signed
the letter to Mr Glynn of
which copy is attached
but Mr Strahan is holding
up its despatch until
you have a look at it

The letter is based
on a memo dated 15/8/38
forwarded to the P. M. by
Asst. Minister V. C. Thompson
on 29/8/38 in connection with
a somewhat similar
application by the Archbishop
of Westminster.

G Campbell
50/8/38

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

CJC/PP

R. 349/3/5

The Secretary,
Department of the Interior.

ASSISTANCE FOR EUROPEAN REFUGEES.

Referred, by direction, for favour of advice.
A copy has also been sent to the Department of External Affairs.



Secretary

30.11.38



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER,

~~Canberra, C.T.~~

R.349/3/5.

Dear Sir,

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 11th November, 1938, regarding the proposals which the Dail Government has in mind for assisting European refugees and particularly with regard to the steps which the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is taking to maintain and train a number of these refugees.

It is observed that the Dail Government proposes to train refugees in agriculture for twelve months and at the expiration of that period arrange for their absorption in the British Dominions or in South America under the immigration schemes existing in the various countries, and that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul intends to follow this plan in respect to the refugees with whom it is particularly concerned.

You will appreciate that the number of aliens who can be admitted to Australia is governed by the capacity of the Commonwealth to absorb such migrants without detrimentally affecting the position of Australian workers. In this connection I would mention that there are opportunities for employment in Australia for farm workers, domestic workers, and certain types of skilled artisans such as carpenters and bricklayers.

I am setting out for your information the following general rules at present operating regarding the admittance of white aliens to Australia:-

- (a) Every alien is required to obtain a landing permit before being admitted to Australia for permanent resident.
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J.A. Glynn, Esq.,
President,
Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
Council of Ireland,
30 South Anne Street,
DUBLIN. IRELAND.

/The

The satisfactory settlement in Australia of the class of migrant with whom your Society is interested could best be achieved if some responsible Organisation such as the Council of your Society in Australia were to undertake to be responsible for the migrants' maintenance for a period, say, of two years after arrival and also to find employment for them at ruling rates of pay without Australian workers being displaced to make way for them.

The question as to whether the Commonwealth Government can make any further contribution towards the solution of the refugee problem is at present receiving attention, and it is hoped to announce a definite policy in regard thereto at an early date.

I was most interested to learn that you are a brother of the late Hon. Patrick McMahon Glynn, whose name will always be remembered in Australia by reason of the prominent part he took in Commonwealth affairs in the early days of Federation.

Yours faithfully,

Prime Minister.

*This letter was not
despatched - see
later letter dated
12/12/38.
MP 4/1/39*

COPY

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL.

Council of Ireland,

30 South Anne Street,

DUBLIN. C.2. 11th November, 1937

Rt. Hon. J.A. Lyons, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
Government Buildings,
Canberra, AUSTRALIA.

Austrian Refugees.

Dear Sir,

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been approached by a joint Committee in England dealing with the question of Austrian Refugees to ascertain if our Society would be prepared to take over to Ireland a group of Austrian Catholics who have a certain amount of Jewish blood in them and who are not being provided for by any of the existing Charitable Organisations in Austria. We are informed that the Catholic Organisations are not allowed to help them by the Government under threat of heavy taxation and the collection of all arrears in connection with same. We are prepared to comply with this request and, in addition to that, a large joint Committee is being formed in this country to deal with other Refugees, practically all of whom will be Catholics though not necessarily of Jewish blood.

The scheme proposed is that those Refugees should have an intensive training in agriculture for 12 months and that at the end of that period should be sent to the British Dominions or South America under whatever immigration schemes exist in these countries. Our Government has taken a very favourable view of the whole matter and a Committee is being formed under the Chairmanship of the Speaker of the Dail. In the meantime the group of Refugees belonging to this Society is expected in the course of a week or ten days and we have undertaken to maintain them and have them trained as already mentioned. We had intended to write to the Councils of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Australia and South Africa seeking their help in placing these people but it has been suggested that I write to you in the first instance asking your co-operation in this very laudable work. It will be a great help to us here if you would let me know what can be done by your Government in placing these people at a later stage when we can certify that they have been trained in agriculture.

I am writing, of course, as President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, but it may interest you to know that I am the brother of the late Patrick McMahon Glynn K.C., who was one of the founders of the Australian Commonwealth and who was one of the Federal Ministers prior to 1918.

I am,
Very truly yours,
(SGD) J.A. GLYNN
President.

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT

CC/IW

R.349/3/5



The Secretary,
Department of the Interior.

6 OCT Rec'd

Catholic Refugees from Germany and Austria - Conditions governing admission to Australia.

Referred, by direction, in connection with my minute of 4th July, 1938.

No trace

Box 4/10

J. A. Graham

Secretary.

20 SEP 1938

21 SEP 1938

Seen

P

1/10/38.

The Secretary.

Perhaps the Minister might see this. The letter to Cardinal Hinsley was based on a draft prep'd by this Dept. & handed to the Assistant Minister, who proposed to discuss it in Cabinet.

W. J. Forrest
6.10.38

The Minister

For information.

J. M. L.

J. A. Carrodus

7/10/38

W. H. Horgan

P

10/12



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

Canberra,

16th September, 1938.

In reply quote No. 1.949/3/5.

MEMORANDUM for :

The Official Secretary,
High Commissioner's Office,
Australia House,
LONDON. W.C.2.

I forward herewith copy of a letter dated 23rd May, 1938, received by the Prime Minister from Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, in relation to the conditions governing the admission of Catholic refugees from Germany and Austria, together with copy of the Prime Minister reply.

It will be observed that Cardinal Hinsley has been advised to approach you with a view to obtaining any additional details which he may require.

Secretary.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER,

Canberra, F.C.T. 19 SEP 1936

R.349/3/5.

Dear Cardinal Hinsley,

With further reference to your letter of 23rd May, in relation to the conditions under which Catholics from Germany and Austria may be admitted to Australia, I desire to inform you that the general rules in regard to white alien immigration are as follow :-

- (a) Every alien is required to obtain a landing permit before being admitted to Australia for permanent residence.
- (b) The issue of landing permits is confined, as a rule -
 - (1) to close dependent relatives of persons already settled in Australia, subject to satisfactory maintenance guarantees;
 - (11) persons outside the category of dependent relatives who are nominated by relatives or friends in Australia, subject to satisfactory maintenance guarantees and possession by the nominees of £50 landing money;
 - (111) persons without guarantors in Australia who possess £200 landing money.

In regard to (11) and (111), the Department of the Interior requires to be reasonably satisfied that the migrants will engage in trades or occupations in which there are opportunities for their absorption without detriment to Australian workers.

Opportunities for employment in Australia exist for farm workers, domestic servants and certain classes of skilled artisans, such as carpenters and bricklayers. The scope for employment of professional workers is, however, limited, especially in view of the restrictions against the registration of doctors, chemists and dentists, but vacancies exist for qualified architects and engineers.

The satisfactory settlement in Australia of the class of immigrants in question could best be achieved if some responsible organisation of the Catholic Church in Australia were to undertake to be responsible for their maintenance for a period, say, of two years after their arrival and also for their placement in employment at ruling rates of pay without displacing Australian workers.

His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop
of Westminster,
Archbishop's House,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.,
ENGLAND.

/If

If such an organisation were set up, every consideration would be given to the question of authorising the admission of a limited number of nominees of the organisation, subject to £50 landing money for male nominees, and £25 in the case of females, provided that particulars were furnished to enable each case to be judged on its merits in accordance with the usual practice.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the Official Secretary, Australia House, London, and am asking him to arrange for you to be furnished with any additional details which you may require.

I beg to remain, my dear Cardinal,

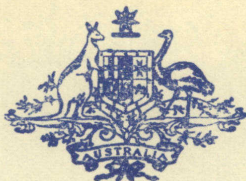
Yours very sincerely,

J. A. LYONS

Mr Pollard

I am due from
Mr Campbell
of Ohio Dept that
this matter
has been put
up & a copy
of reply to the
Archbishop sent
to the Dept for
information.
Pls attach

WJ
26/9/38



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER,

Canberra, 16 AUG. 1938

R.349/3/5.

My dear Assistant Minister,

On 4th July I forwarded to Mr. McEwen copy of a letter from His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, seeking information as to the conditions under which Catholic refugees from Germany and Austria can be admitted to Australia.

I would be glad if you would furnish me with particulars in this connection, so that a reply may be sent to Cardinal Hinsley as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. G. McEwen".

The Hon. V. C. Thompson, M.P.,
Acting Minister for the Interior,
CANBERRA.

The Asst. Min. has
this matter for submission
to Cabinet on 20/8/38.
He said that he had
explained the position
to Mr. Lyons. A.D.
20/8/38



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER,

Canberra,

16 AUG. 1938

R.349/3/5.

My dear Assistant Minister,

On 4th July I forwarded to Mr. McEwen copy of a letter from His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, seeking information as to the conditions under which Catholic refugees from Germany and Austria can be admitted to Australia.

I would be glad if you would furnish me with particulars in this connection, so that a reply may be sent to Cardinal Hinsley as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

J. A. LYONS

The Hon. V. C. Thompson, M.P.,
Acting Minister for the Interior,
CANBERRA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

RB

No.

MEMORANDUM

Roman Catholic Refugees from Austria and Germany -
Question of facilities to migrate to Australia.

The Archbishop of Westminster, London, has brought under notice the plight of several thousands of Catholics who have found it necessary to leave Austria and Germany on account of the interference there with their religious liberties and the persecution on account of race discrimination.

2. The Archbishop enquires as to the possibility of admitting German and Austrian Catholics of good character as immigrants into Australia.

3. He suggests that it would perhaps be best to concentrate on young people who could adapt themselves and he also asks :-

- (a) In what occupations and professions are there openings?
- (b) What preliminary training would be required?

4. The general rules in regard to white alien immigration are as follow :-

- (a) Every alien is required to obtain a landing permit before being admitted to Australia for permanent residence.
- (b) The issue of landing permits is confined, as a rule 6 -
 - (i) to close dependent relatives of persons already settled in Australia, subject to satisfactory maintenance guarantees;
 - (ii) persons outside the category of dependent relatives who are nominated by relatives or friends in Australia, subject to satisfactory maintenance guarantees and possession by the nominees of £50 landing money;
 - (iii) persons without guarantors in Australia who possess £200 landing money.

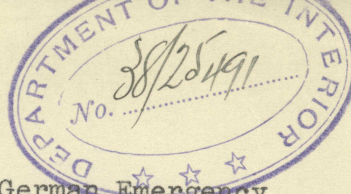
In regard to (ii) and (iii), the Department requires to be reasonably satisfied that the migrants will engage in trades or occupations in which there are opportunities for their absorption without detriment to Australian workers.

5. Applications by German and Austrian Jews (who are probably in a worse plight than Catholics) are dealt with in accordance with the general rules, i.e. if they have no guarantors in Australia they are required to be in possession of £200 landing capital.

6. A considerable number of Jewish refugees have guarantors in Australia. The Australian Jewish Welfare Society make themselves responsible for upwards of 500 a year. Their guarantee covers maintenance for a period of five years, and also an undertaking to find employment for the wage-earners, at ruling rates of pay, without displacing Australian workers.

*Catholic Refugees
from Europe*

- 2 -



7. An organisation known as the German Emergency Fellowship Committee was granted permission by Cabinet to introduce up to twenty single non-Aryan Christians, i.e., of partial Jewish race, for agricultural work or domestic service during the next six months under the following conditions:-

- (a) the Committee to undertake not to allow any of their nominees to become a charge upon the public for a period of at least twelve months after arrival;
- (b) the nominees to be under thirty years of age;
- (c) an application to be submitted to the Department in connection with each nominee, accompanied by a definite offer of employment;
- (d) male nominees to be in possession of at least £50 landing money and females at least £25.

8. It is suggested that the Archbishop of Westminster be advised -

- (a) of the general rules relating to alien immigration;
- (b) that there are opportunities for employment in Australia of farm workers, domestic workers, and certain classes of skilled artisans such as carpenters and bricklayers;
- (c) that the scope for employment of professional workers is limited, especially in view of the restrictions against the registration of doctors, chemists and dentists, although there are opportunities at present for employment of qualified architects and engineers;
- (d) that the satisfactory settlement in Australia of the class of immigrant in question would best be achieved if some responsible organisation of the Roman Catholic Church in Australia were to undertake to be responsible for their maintenance for a period, say, of two years after arrival, and also to find employment for them at ruling rates of pay without Australian workers being displaced to make way for them; and
- (e) that if such an organisation were set up, every consideration would be given to the question of authorising the admission of a limited number of nominees of the organisation, subject to £50 landing money for male nominees, and £25 in the case of females, provided that particulars were furnished to enable each case to be judged on its merits in accordance with the usual practice

The Asst. Minister.

Ad Peter
15/8/1938.

Recommended for approval of Cabinet
W. A. Barrett
16/8/38

W. A. Barrett
16/8/38

W. A. Barrett
16/8/38

MEMORANDUM -

Roman Catholic Refugees from Austria and Germany -
Question of facilities to migrate to Australia.

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2. The Archbishop enquires as to the possibility of admitting German and Austrian Catholics of good character as immigrants into Australia.

3. He suggests that it would perhaps be best to concentrate on young people who could adapt themselves and he also asks :-

(a) In what occupations and professions are there openings?

(b) What preliminary training would be required?

4. The general rules in regard to white alien immigration are as follow :-

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(b) The issue of landing permits is confined, as a rule -

(i) to close dependent relatives of persons already settled in Australia, subject to satisfactory maintenance guarantees;

(ii) persons outside the category of dependent relatives who are nominated by relatives or friends in Australia, subject to satisfactory maintenance guarantees and possession by the nominees of £50 landing money;

(iii) persons without guarantors in Australia who possess £200 landing money.

In regard to (ii) and (iii), the Department requires to be reasonably satisfied that the migrants will engage in trades or occupations in which there are opportunities for their absorption without detriment to Australian workers.

5. Applications by German and Austrian Jews (who are probably in a worse plight than Catholics) are dealt with in accordance with the general rules, i.e. if they have no guarantors in Australia they are required to be in possession of £200 landing capital.

6. A considerable number of Jewish refugees have guarantors in Australia. The Australian Jewish Welfare Society make themselves responsible for upwards of 500 a year. Their guarantee covers maintenance for a period of five years, and also an undertaking to find employment for the wage-earners, at ruling rates of pay, without displacing Australian workers.

7. An organisation known as the German Emergency Fellowship Committee was granted permission by Cabinet to introduce up to twenty single non-Aryan Christians, i.e., of partial Jewish race, for agricultural work or domestic service during the next six months under the following conditions:-

- (a) the Committee to undertake not to allow any of their nominees to become a charge upon the public for a period of at least twelve months after arrival;
- (b) the nominees to be under thirty years of age;
- (c) an application to be submitted to the Department in connection with each nominee, accompanied by a definite offer of employment;
- (d) male nominees to be in possession of at least £50 landing money and females at least £25.

8. It is suggested that the Archbishop of Westminster be advised -

- (a) of the general rules relating to alien immigration;
- (b) that there are opportunities for employment in Australia of farm workers, domestic workers, and certain classes of skilled artisans such as carpenters and bricklayers;
- (c) that the scope for employment of professional workers is limited, especially in view of the restrictions against the registration of doctors, chemists and dentists, although there are opportunities at present for employment of qualified architects and engineers;
- (d) that the satisfactory settlement in Australia of the class of immigrant in question would best be achieved if some responsible organisation of the Roman Catholic Church in Australia were to undertake to be responsible for their maintenance for a period, say, of two years after arrival and also to find employment for them at ruling rates of pay without Australian workers being displaced to make way for them; and
- (e) that if such an organisation were set up, every consideration would be given to the question of authorising the admission of a limited number of nominees of the organisation, subject to £50 landing money for male nominees, and £25 in the case of females, provided that particulars were furnished to enable each case to be judged on its merits in accordance with the usual practice.

15/8/1938.

(DRAFT LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER).

I desire to refer to your letter of the 4th July, forwarding copies of communications received from His Eminence, Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, regarding the question of facilities for Catholic refugees from Austria and Germany to migrate to Australia.

The usual conditions under which foreign migrants are permitted to enter Australia are as follow :-

Each migrant must obtain a Landing Permit from the Department of the Interior before being admitted into the Commonwealth for permanent residence. The grant of such Permits is, as a rule, confined to the following classes :-

- (a) dependent relatives of persons already settled in Australia, subject to satisfactory guarantees for maintenance being furnished. Dependent relatives include wives, minor children, adult single daughters and sisters, parents and fiancées;
- (b) persons outside the category of dependent relatives who -
 - (i) are nominated by persons in Australia guaranteeing to the satisfaction of the Minister that the nominee will not be allowed to become a charge upon the State;
 - (ii) will engage in trades and occupations in which there is opportunity for absorption without detriment to Australian workers; and
 - (iii) are in possession of £50 (Australian) landing money;
- (c) aliens without guarantors in Australia who will engage in trades and occupations in which there is opportunity for their absorption without detriment to Australian workers, provided also that they are in possession of £200 (Australian) landing money.

If the intending migrant has no guarantor in Australia, he should make application on Form 47. If there is an individual guarantor in Australia, the application should be on form 40. Copies of both forms are attached, ~~for your~~
~~information.~~

Each application

Each application is dealt with on its merits, and special consideration is given to the question as to the prospects of the migrant's finding employment without detriment to Australian workers.

It may be mentioned that, with regard to Jewish refugees, an organisation known as the Australian Jewish Welfare Society has been established to assist such refugees to come to Australia and to find employment after their arrival. That Society, which has branches in the various States, ~~also~~ furnishes maintenance guarantees in respect of the nominees whom they introduce, and also undertakes to see that the nominees are found employment on arrival at the ruling rate of wages without local workers being displaced to make way for them. The approved nominees of this Society are required to hold £50 landing money.

It would assist in dealing with the question of granting permission for Roman Catholic refugees to enter Australia if some similar organisation, established by the Roman Catholic Church in Australia, would be prepared to accept ^{the} responsibility of receiving a limited number of such refugees, and also undertake to find employment for them on arrival and to see that they are not allowed to become a charge upon State funds within a specified period. If any proposal of this nature is submitted, the question of allowing the nominees to be admitted subject to £50 landing money, or less in the case of domestic servants, would receive sympathetic consideration.

Regarding the Archbishop's enquiry as to occupations or professions in which there are any openings, it may be stated that there are opportunities for skilled artisans, farm workers and household domestic workers.

With regard to the professions, there are openings at present for qualified architects *and engineers*.

Doctors, chemists or dentists would be unable to practise their professions in Australia unless they were qualified for registration in Australia. The requirements vary in the different States, but in general terms it may be stated that a person who was not qualified for registration in England would not be eligible to register in Australia. Enquiries ~~have~~ also shown that it is not advisable for aliens belonging to ^{these} ~~the~~ professional classes mentioned in this paragraph to rely on finding work connected with their respective professions, ^{for example,} such as laboratory or dental assistants.

Mr Garrett -

We might explain
the general conditions
of admin referring
to £200 limiting
money requirement
for non-guaranteed
migrants, & suggest
that if some
organisation of the
R.C. Church in Australia
would undertake the
responsibility of funding
employment for the
refugees on arrival & of
seeing that for a period
of five years after arrival
they are not allowed to
become a charge on
public funds, consideration
will be given to the question
of admitting a limited
number with £50 landing
money subject to usual
conditions of employment
in occupation without
disturbance to Australian workers

After you have perused see report
above. AGS: 11/7/38.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER,

Canberra,

4 JUL 1938

My Dear Minister for the Interior,

I forward herewith copy of a letter dated 23rd May from His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, together with the enclosures referred to therein.

As you will observe, His Eminence desires to be informed of the conditions under which Catholic refugees from Germany and Austria can be admitted to Australia.

I should be glad if you would be so good as to look into this matter at the earliest possible date and advise me as to the nature of the reply which should be forwarded to Cardinal Hinsley.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. McEwen', written in a cursive style.

The Hon. John McEwen, M.P.,
Minister for the Interior,
CANBERRA. F.C.T.

C O P Y.

P.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE.

WESTMINSTER, S.W.

May 23rd, 1938.

Dear Mr. Lyons,

Having had only too much evidence of the undeserved misery into which some of the best of our fellow Catholics have been plunged first in Germany, then in Austria by the interference of "the powers that be" with their religious liberties or the brutal application of race discrimination, I decided to take the initiative in setting up a Catholic Committee in this country to assist such of them as are forced to seek safety in exile. Among the 130,000 people who had fled from the Reich up to the end of last year, several thousands were Catholics; and the number of Catholic refugees is being slowly but steadily increased in consequence of the seizure of Austria. The establishment of our Catholic Committee in London - which has met with the approval of all the Archbishops and Bishops of England and Wales - was the more necessary in that so many Catholic refugees, including children, were being aided by non-Catholic agencies, while small Catholic organisations were already struggling with the same task in Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland and the United States.

I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy of a communication which I have issued to the Press on this subject and also some leaflets issued by our Committee.

My particular purpose in writing to you is to ask for your generous assistance in regard to the possibility of admitting German and Austrian Catholics of good character as immigrants into Australia.

We are well aware that this is a delicate question. But as the prospects of settling permanently any large number of these cases in the United Kingdom and other over-crowded

European countries are poor, our Committee - in common with the other Refugee Committees in England - are bound to investigate every opportunity for planned or assisted emigration.

Would you be so good as to tell me upon what conditions well-selected cases of these Catholic refugees might be admitted to the Commonwealth?

Doubtless it would be best to concentrate on young people who could adapt themselves. In what occupations or professions are there any openings? What preliminary training would be required? I should be most grateful if you could give me any guidance upon these and other such practical questions as may occur to you.

With every best wish to you and to Mrs. Lyons,

I remain

Yours devotedly in Christ

A. Cardinal Hinsley

Archbishop of Westminster.

The Right Hon. Joseph Lyons, P.C., C.H.

Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

May 11th, 1938

The Archbishops and Bishops of England and Wales at their last Annual Low Week Meeting, decided to commend to the generous support of our Catholic people, the work of the Catholic Committee for Refugees from Germany and Austria, recently formed under my presidency. It is my earnest hope that, despite the needs of our own parishes, schools and poor, which it is our first duty to meet, this appeal will find a ready response. For it is one that gives expression most clearly to the supernational unity of Catholics which has its foundation in their membership of the Mystical Body of Christ. It is one that affords opportunities for the practical exercise of that charity enjoined upon us all in the parable of the Good Samaritan, where it is the kindly foreigner who did minister to the needs of the afflicted Jew by the wayside.

From Austria and the rest of the German Reich, there comes the sad tale of many of our fellow Catholics, who through no fault of their own, are suddenly deprived of their means of subsistence, simply because they have some Jewish blood in their veins. They are of the race of Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother.

Nor are these the only Catholics forced into an unwilling exile. Many of them find themselves homeless and even destitute, because of the part that they had played in the public life of their own country, be it in the Christian Trades Unions, in the Centre Party in Germany, or in the Fatherland Front in what was Austria.

Others again were members of the Catholic Youth organisations which, despite the Concordat between the Holy See and Germany, have been driven out of existence. Then there are those who consequent upon the suppression of so many Catholic Schools in Germany, are compelled to seek outside of their own country that Catholic education for their children which they feel in duty bound to give them.

In seeking to come to the aid of these unfortunate men, women and children, our Catholic Committee has no political motive or function whatsoever. While its members share "the burning anxiety" of Our Holy Father for the Church in Germany, they are well aware that their co-religionists in the Reich have, as a whole, accepted the existing form of Government. They have no desire to meddle in German or in international or in any other politics. Their sole concern, as it is my own, is that among those who have been forced to leave their homes in the Reich, there are many fellow-Catholics who are in dire distress and in immediate need of help. It is for us to prove ourselves to be worthy disciples of Christ, and worthy of our Christian name, by providing for their immediate wants and doing so promptly.

I beg all our Catholic people to give what they can afford, even though for many their utmost be but a few shillings or a few pence. The office of our Catholic Committee, 120, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, will gladly inform enquirers of the various practical ways, apart from gifts of money, in which they can co-operate and render real service. Let all remember with what kindness and generosity the Catholic Refugees from these shores were received on the Continent of Europe in the days of their own sufferings for the Faith three centuries ago, and that, as the Church is to subsist in all ages, so too must that spirit of charity which is her greatest characteristic. It must not be said that, among our fellow citizens who are not Catholics, many have been more ready than we have been to come to the aid of the German Refugees. Honour to all who help their fellows in distress; but for us, the time to do our part is now.

Arthur Cardinal Hinsley

Archbishop of Westminster.

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES FROM GERMANY

PRESIDENT :

His Eminence CARDINAL HINSLEY, Archbishop of Westminster



HOW CAN I HELP?

Catholics in Great Britain will not turn a deaf ear to the appeal made by destitute German and Austrian Catholic refugees who, for various political, religious, and racial reasons are in exile from their native land and are in need of the actual necessities of life. There are many ways in which these unfortunate people can be helped, and for the guidance of those who are willing to assist in the work of relief, the Catholic Refugees Committee has drawn up a list of ways in which private people, schools, charitable institutions, &c., can give their support. The Committee asks you to be good enough to read the suggestions contained in this leaflet and to bring the matter to the attention of others.

METHODS OF HELPING.

A.—Private Persons :—

1. *By giving a general contribution to the Relief Fund.* Any sum, however small, is welcome, and every penny is spent on relieving cases of urgent need. Cheques should be made payable to Lord Sempill, and crossed "Refugees' Account."
2. *By giving a contribution for various specific purposes.*
 - (a) Endowing a person, or a family, over a certain period, say one, two, or three months. The minimum cost is £1 per week per adult person, 10s. per week per child.
 - (b) Contributing the travelling expenses of a person, or a family, from Germany or Austria to this country; the cost of the journey from Vienna is approximately £4.
 - (c) Providing the passage money for a person or a family to the United States, South America, or the Dominions.

3. *By offering hospitality.*

- (a) Offering hospitality to single persons, families, students of university age, &c., over a period of weeks or months. Those who are not in a position to contribute money are urgently requested to consider whether they can find room to receive, even if only for a short period, these homeless people. The Committee and other Relief Organisations may be in a position to contribute something towards board and lodging, where this is indispensable.
- (b) Offering free meals to refugees for whom lodging only has been found.
- (c) Offering to take a suitable refugee as companion or companion-help or as a children's governess, &c.
- (d) Taking suitable refugees as domestic servants. This is one of the simplest and most effective ways in which help can be given, for permission to work is not difficult to obtain, and most of the girls, from whatever class they may come, are efficient housewives, and are willing to do any kind of work.
N.B.—(c) and (d) require Home Office permits.
- (e) Taking over financial responsibility for the education of a refugee child.
- (f) Offers of hospitality for day boys and girls or for boarders during the holidays.

4. *By helping in the organisation of relief.*

- (a) Offering to become a local representative of the Committee for the raising of funds, finding of hospitality, and issue of appeals; the representative would also be asked to keep interest alive in the work of the Committee.
- (b) Undertaking to circularise or to make a personal appeal to all Catholic friends in order to find funds and offers of hospitality.
The Committee will supply the necessary literature. A personal letter accompanied or not by a circular is more effective than any number of leaflets.
- (c) Catholic shops, boarding houses, hotels, &c., are asked to exhibit a notice and undertake responsibility for a collecting box.

B.—Schools (girls, boys, public, private, boarding, or day).

- (a) By offering free board and tuition to refugee children.
- (b) By offering free tuition at a nominal fee.
- (c) By offering certain reductions.
- (d) By taking qualified persons *au pair* as language teachers, &c. (subject to the Home Secretary's consent).

C.—Institutions (orphanages, boarding houses, convents which take lady boarders, &c.).

- (a) By offering free board and lodging.
- (b) By taking refugees at a reduced charge.
- (c) By offering board and lodging in return for work (subject to the Home Secretary's consent).

The Committee will be grateful for help of any kind. Catholics are asked seriously to consider whether they cannot under one or other of these headings come to the assistance of their unfortunate fellow Catholics, who, for no fault of their own, are reduced to complete dependence on the charity of others.

The Committee will be very pleased to give, on application, any further information about their work.

Please write, saying in which of the ways explained above you could help this good work, to

THE HON. SECRETARY,

Catholic Committee for Refugees from Germany,
120, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1.

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES FROM GERMANY.

President :

His Eminence CARDINAL HINSLEY.

Chairman :

*Rev. JOSEPH GERAERTS, D.C.L.

Hon. Treasurer :

*Rt. Hon. LORD SEMPILL.

Hon. Secretary :

*JOHN EPPSTEIN.

Assistant Secretary :

A. J. SMITH.

Office : 120 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Telephone : VIC 4713.

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Miss A. WEDD
*Rev. J. WOLFS

**Members of Executive Committee.*



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER,

Canberra,

4 JUL 1938

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Yours faithfully,

So) J A Lyons

The Hon. John McEwen, M.P.,
Minister for the Interior,
CANBERRA. F.C.T.

C O P Y.

SF.

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WESTMINSTER, S.W.

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I remain

Yours devotedly in Christ

A. Cardinal Hinsley

Archbishop of Westminster.

The Right Hon. Joseph Lyons, P.C., C.H.

Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

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